

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12(canceled)

13.(currently amended) Method of preparing, by free radical emulsion polymerization, of ultrafine hydrophobic latex polymer or copolymer particles, ~~making use thereof,~~ in order to polymerize or copolymerize monomers or monomer mixtures respectively, of at least one purified compound as a chain transfer agent (CTA), wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 ~~100~~ nm, being ~~more than~~ at least 10 % lower than if prepared in the absence of said CTA, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said polymerization is conducted in a water-based reaction in the presence of a chain transfer agent and of a surfactant, wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration versus said monomer or monomer mixture of from 5 up to 25 % by weight for a non-ionic surfactant or from 0.05 up to 10 % by weight for an ionic surfactant.

14.(previously presented) Method according to claim 13, wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration below twice its critical micelle concentration.

15.(currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein said CTA is ~~dimers are~~ selected from the group consisting of alpha-methyl vinyl compounds or alpha-ethyl vinyl compounds.

16.(currently amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein said CTA ~~is dimers are~~ selected from the group consisting of alpha-methyl vinyl compounds or alpha-ethyl vinyl compounds.

17.(currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein said CTA ~~dimer~~ is selected from the group consisting of dimers or cross-dimers of -methylstyrene, methyl methacrylate, hydroxy ethylacrylate, benzyl methacrylate, allyl methacrylate, methacrylonitrile, glycidyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, tert.-butyl methacrylate, isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, meta-isopropenyl-, -dimethyl isocyanate (TMI), omega-sulfoxyalkyl methacrylates and alkali salts thereof.

18.(currently amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein said CTA ~~dimer~~ is selected from the group consisting of dimers or cross-dimers of -methylstyrene, methyl methacrylate, hydroxy ethylacrylate, benzyl methacrylate, allyl methacrylate, methacrylonitrile, glycidyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, tert.-butyl methacrylate, isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, meta-isopropenyl-, -dimethyl isocyanate (TMI), omega-sulfoxyalkyl methacrylates and alkali salts thereof.

19.(currently amended) Method according to claim 15, wherein said CTA ~~dimer~~ is selected from the group consisting of dimers or cross-dimers of -methylstyrene, methyl methacrylate, hydroxy ethylacrylate, benzyl methacrylate, allyl methacrylate, methacrylonitrile, glycidyl methacrylate,

methacrylic acid, tert.-butyl methacrylate, isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, meta-isopropenyl-, -dimethyl isocyanate (TMI), omega-sulfoxyalkyl methacrylates and alkali salts thereof.

- 20.(currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein said CTA dimer is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.
- 21.(currently amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein said CTA dimer is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.
- 22.(currently amended) Method according to claim 15, wherein said CTA dimer is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.
- 23.(currently amended) Method according to claim 17, wherein said CTA dimer is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.
- 24.(previously presented) Method according to claim 13, wherein said surfactant is an anionic surfactant, present in an amount of from 0.1 up to 5 % by weight versus said monomer or monomer mixture.
- 25.(previously presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein said surfactant is an anionic surfactant, present in an amount of from 0.1 up to 5 % by weight versus said monomer or monomer mixture.

- 26.(previously presented) Method according to claim 15, wherein said surfactant is an anionic surfactant, present in an amount of from 0.1 up to 5 % by weight versus said monomer or monomer mixture.
- 27.(previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said surfactant is an anionic surfactant, present in an amount of from 0.1 up to 5 % by weight versus said monomer or monomer mixture.
- 28.(currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 ~~100~~ nm, being more than at least 20 % less lower than if prepared in the absence of said CTA.
- 29.(currently amended) Method according to claim 14, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 ~~100~~ nm, being more than 20 % less than if prepared in the absence of said CTA.
- 30.(currently amended) Method according to claim 15, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 ~~100~~ nm, being more than 20 % less than if prepared in the absence of said CTA.
- 31.(currently amended) Method according to claims 17, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 ~~100~~ nm, being more than 20 % less than if prepared in the absence of said CTA.
- 32.(currently amended) Method according to claim 20, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 ~~100~~ nm, being more than 20 % less than if prepared in the absence of said CTA.

- 33.(currently amended) Method according to claim 24, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 ~~100~~ nm, being more than 20 % less than if prepared in the absence of said CTA.
- 34.(previously presented) Method according to claim 28, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of from 10 to 90 nm.
- 35.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of claim 13, in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, ~~in~~ silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, ~~in~~ photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and ~~in~~ ink-jet media.
- 36.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of claim 14, in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, ~~in~~ silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, ~~in~~ photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and ~~in~~ ink-jet media.
- 37.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of any of the claim 15, in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, ~~in~~ silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, ~~in~~ photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and ~~in~~ ink-jet media.

- 38.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of any of claim 17,
in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, ~~in~~ silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, ~~in~~ photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and ~~in~~ ink-jet media.
in silver halide base.
- 39.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of claim 20,
in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, ~~in~~ silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, ~~in~~ photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and ~~in~~ ink-jet media..
- 40.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of claim 24,
in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, ~~in~~ silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, ~~in~~ photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and ~~in~~ ink-jet media.media.
- 41.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of claim 28,
in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, ~~in~~ silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, ~~in~~ photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and ~~in~~ ink-jet media.

42.(currently amended) ~~Use of~~ Inserting ultrafine hydrophobic latex particles of polymers and copolymers, prepared according to the method of claim 34, in one element selected from printing plates for computer-to-plate or computer-to-press applications, in silver halide based graphic, medical, cinematographic and micrographic film materials, in photoresist ~~applications~~ materials and in ink-jet media.